

## **REMARKS**

In the Official Action mailed on **28 August 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 1-8 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 20-27 of copending Application No. 10/641,845.

### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101**

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the element of determining a solution to a set of constraints “associated with a circuit design” (page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4 of the instant application), and “displaying the value to a circuit designer to facilitate implementing the circuit design” (page 91, lines 22 to 25 of the instant application), thus setting forth a practical application.

Applicant has amended independent claim 6 to include the element of generating a graph data structure representation “for a set of constraints associated with a circuit design” (page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4 of the instant application), and “displaying the first range of values to a circuit designer to facilitate implementing the circuit design” (page 91, lines 22 to 25 of the instant application), thus setting forth a practical application.

Applicant contends that independent claim 7 is directed to statutory subject matter because claim 7 includes the element of “a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein”.

Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to include the “computer-readable storage medium.” Support for this amendment can be found on page 92, lines 3-5, of the instant application.

Claims 1-8 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 double patenting rejection as claiming the same invention as that of claims 20-27 of co-

pending Application No. 10/641,845. Applicant submitted a preliminary amendment on 22 December 2006 cancelling claims 20-27 of co-pending Application No. 10/641,845.

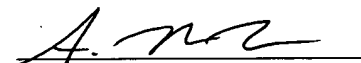
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 6, 7, and 8 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-5, which depend upon claim 1 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

**CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 28 December 2006

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